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Bangalore Mirror

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Varthur Lake inaccessible to citizens a year after deadline for development works that began in 2021

FORBIDDEN LAKE

Sewage entered waterbody after diversion channel breach in Oct 2023

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The rejuvenation and development of Varthur Lake remains incomplete even after more than a year of the deadline.

The removal of silt from the lake is completed but the developmental works are yet to be taken up, making the lake inaccessible to the residents in and around Varthur.

Residents and environmentalists complained that the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) engineers are not keen on removing sewage that entered the waterbody when the diversion channel breached in October 2023.

They said the sewage that entered the lake would pollute the lake and the efforts made to remove the silt from the lake would be futile.

Rejuvenation of Varthur Lake was to begin in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

“ There are two illegal dry waste collection centres on lake land dumping plastic in the waterbody; the CCTV cameras are not functioning — Jagadeesh Reddy, Varthur Rising

Plastic seizure

BBMP, KSPCB crack down on illegal factory

PAGE 3

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3 THINGS TO DO

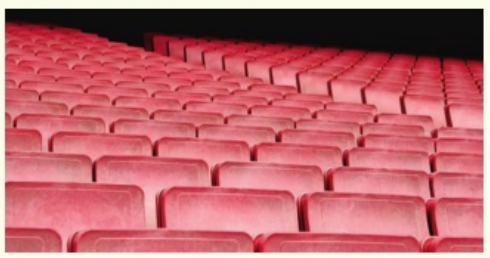
01 Artistic choice

The Grand Rajasthani Exhibition is back in town with the latest collection of artistic goodies. The exhibition-cum sale has been organised by Maaruthi Enterprises. You can explore a range of handicrafts, including Odisha tie and dye, handlooms, jewellery, carpets, jutis, marble crafts, Odisha Pattachitra painting, Madhubani paintings, and more.
Where: Srinivasa Kalyana Mantapa, behind Ranka Colony, Devarachikkanahalli Road, Someswar Layout, Ramanashree Enclave, Bilekahalli
When: until February 19, 10 am to 9 pm

02 For the legend

Pancham Nishad and Grace Foundation are organising an event to celebrate the birth centenary of late Indian classical music legend Padmabhushan Pandit CR Vyas. The event will feature renowned vocalists like Ganpati Bhat, Bharathi Prathap, Jayateerth Mevundi, Shaswati Mandal and Venkatesh Kumar.
Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall
When: February 11; 3 pm onwards

03 Action hour



Quite a relevant play that can be much related to is going to be performed in town. Anthill, a musical comedy, sends a message to the corporate world that they need to pay attention to the mental health conditions of their employees. Kabir's words and music will make the protagonist realise that he is shrinking and that he must take a route to address his troubles. This show will be followed by two more shows on February 17 and 18.
Where: Ranga Shankara
When: February 9

Worrisome trend: Anaemia in little ones

Examination of prevalence of anaemia in children in B'luru reveals concerning pattern; out of 199 children in BBMP limits; 68.3% are found to be anaemic

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The analysis of anaemia prevalence among children in Bengaluru reveals a shocking trend, contrary to the expectation that urban areas generally provide better access to quality living conditions. In the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits, a total of 199 children underwent haemoglobin screening. Shockingly, 68.3% of these children were found to be anaemic, with 49.7% experiencing mild anaemia, 14.6% exhibiting moderate anaemia, and 4.02% facing severe anaemia.

Further analysis within Bengaluru Urban district, involving the screening of 2,376 children, demonstrated that 37.7% of them were anemic. Among these, 20.3% had mild anaemia, 14.8% had moderate anaemia, and 2.57% suffered from severe anaemia. This data indicates a higher prevalence of anaemia among urban children in Bengaluru compared to the overall state average. Statewide statistics for Karnataka show that 36.4% of children are anaemic, with 1.81% categorised as severely anaemic. This highlights the widespread issue of anaemia affecting the younger population in the state.

Examining trends over the last two iterations of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), it becomes evident that undernutrition is a significant concern among the youth in Karnataka. The data indicates that Karnataka's youth exhibit relatively low body mass index (BMI) levels and a high prevalence of anaemia. Alarmingly, youth accounted for 30% of all suicide deaths in the state for both 2019 and 2020, underscoring the potential health and well-being challenges faced by the younger generation in Karnataka. This comprehensive analysis emphasises the need for targeted interventions and health initiatives to address the prevalent issues of anaemia and undernutrition among the youth in the state.

Statewide statistics show that 36.4% of children are anaemic

> **"Karnataka has launched the AMPK action plan in alignment with the Anaemia Free India Programme by the Government of India**
>
> –a senior health department official

Anaemia, characterised by a reduction in red blood cells or a low haemoglobin concentration, is a medical condition. Haemoglobin, a protein in red blood cells, binds with oxygen and transports it to tissues and organs throughout the body. Individuals identified with mild or moderate anaemia will receive iron and folic acid (IFA) tablets to address their nutritional needs. Meanwhile, those diagnosed with severe anaemia will be promptly referred to the nearest public healthcare facility equipped with laboratory capabilities for comprehensive investigations and necessary interventions like blood transfusions, as stated by a Health and Family Welfare Department official.

A senior health department official said, "Karnataka has launched the 'Anaemia Mukt Poushtika Karnataka' (AMPK) action plan in alignment with the Anaemia Free India Programme by the Government of India. On October 5, 2023, the state cabinet approved this initiative, following Niti Aayog's recommendations. With a government-sanctioned grant of Rs 185.74 crore on October 13, 2023, the AMPK action plan aims to combat anaemia comprehensively across the state. This concerted effort is a crucial stride towards fostering a healthier population, aligning with the broader vision of achieving a malnutrition-free India."

The state women and child department is spearheading the initiative, with the ambitious goal of making Karnataka anaemia-free by 2025. Experts emphasise the importance of early detection and intervention in managing anaemia. The action plan delineates strategies for the timely identification of anaemic individuals, added the official.

Visually impaired kids shine on stage

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The two-day state-level cultural programme organised by Snehadeep Trust for the Disabled on Saturday and Sunday became a platform for around 600 visually challenged children from across the state. Sandalwood actress Prema inaugurated the function, while Sandalwood actress Bhavana was the chief guest at the prize distribution function.

Appreciating the dedication and willpower of visually challenged children, Prema said that their dancing skills are amazing. "I am very happy to be the chief guest at the inaugural function. I am not able to tell how visually challenged children managed to know the basics of classical dance. Their willpower, dedication, and commitment deserve appreciation. It is not easy for visually challenged people to practice classical dance," she said.

Snehadeep Trust for the Disabled has been organising cultural programmes for the last 15 years.

Sandalwood actress Bhavana with chidren from Deepa Academy for the Disabled

"Around 600 differently abled children from all the districts of Karnataka participated in the cultural and motivation programme for two days. We made arrangements for them at BWSSB Rajatha Bhavan. We provided school bags for all the participants and prizes for winners and runners-up. Our objective is to encourage and support differently abled children to showcase their talent," said Dr Paul Muddha, Managing Trustee, Snehadeep Trust for the Disabled.

The overall championship was given to Deepa Academy, and the runner-up was Snehadeep Trust, Ranebennur. The two-day cultural event has enabled the differently abled children to participate in singing, dancing, instrumental and mimicry, and other cultural programmes.

Commending the dedication and willpower of differently abled children, Bhavana, who was the chief guest at the prize distribution, said that she was very happy to attend the event. "Generally, it is difficult to expect differently-abled people to organise this type of event. I felt very happy when told that Snehadeep Trust for the Disabled has been organising cultural programmes for the last 15 years," she said.

Prema H from Deepa Academy for the Disabled, Chamarajanagar, told BM that 42 students from Deepa Academy for Disabled participated in the cultural and motivation programme.

Naveen, administrator, Snehadeep Trust, Ranebennur, said 30 students from Ranebennur participated in the cultural and motivation programme.

BBMP, KSPCB swoop down on illegal plastic making unit

3 tonnes of material seized from factory; it is alleged that dry waste from DWCCs also being used to make plastic

| Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In a joint operation by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), officials seized over 3 tonnes of material from an illegally operating plastic manufacturing unit in Yelachenahalli. KSPCB will issue an order for the closure of the unit.

During a routine drive against banned plastic, BBMP marshals discovered a unit that was producing plastic bags with no permission from BBMP or KSPCB. It was raids on shops nearby using the banned single-use plastic that led them to the unit. A fine of Rs 50,000 has been imposed for plastic trading as per SWM 2016 rules.

BBMP officials rushed to the spot on Monday and started the seizing procedure by 8:30 am.

"When we reached the unit, it was locked. But we could hear that machines were running. We informed the Hoysala police and with their support, we got the unit opened. Inside, the machines were on, making plastic bags.

We have recovered over 3 tonnes of plastic bags and materials. We also found several bags of granules used in making plastic. We noticed that while some were virgin plastic granules and others were recycled, the bags were being made using a mix of both," said a BBMP marshal.

BBMP marshals found that the unit was being operated at two 60X80 sq ft sheds with four extruders and five punching machines.

They also seized 3.919 tonnes of plastic material comprising plastic bags below 50 microns including 150 kg of plastic rolls that were being manufactured. The estimated value of the seized product is around Rs 4-4.5 lakh. A fine has been imposed on Kalyana Karnataka Packaging.

While BBMP officials have not been able to identify the owners of the unit, they allege that Kalyana Karnataka Packaging, which produces recycled plastic granule units adjacent to this unit, is responsible for the operation.

They also alleged that dry waste from DWCCS and other sources such as factories was being used for the production of these plastic granules which were further used to make plastic bags and other banned materials. Ideally, these plastic granules can be used for making longer-lasting roads by mixing with aggregates.

KSPCB officials were also intimated about the violation and they will be writing to BESCOM to disconnect the power connection. "We have found consent was sought to run this unit. We will be asking for the closure of the unit. We will also be asking BESCOM to disconnect the power connection," said a senior KSPCB official.

The seized material will be sent to Swachha ECO Solutions and Pvt Ltd and will be shredded and converted to granules which will be further used for road construction.

The CPCB notification of August 12, 2021, prohibits the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of the specific single-use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential with effect from July 1, 2022.

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Saving Hulimavu Lake: Citizens unite for cleanup

NMIMS students join hands with citizens for lake cleanup, hope to tackle single-use plastic pollution

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

On Sunday, volunteers from Hulimavu Kere Taranga and students from Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS) collaborated to clean up around Hulimavu Lake. Hulimavu Kere Taranga volunteers expressed their gratitude for the enthusiastic participation of NMIMS students in the cleanup drive. Approximately 40 students from NMIMS, along with Hulimavu Kere Taranga volunteers and pourakarmikas from the Arakere ward, actively took part in the clean-up effort.

The volunteers mentioned that the lake cleanup site was visited by some local politicians who assured the students that Hulimavu Lake would be restored by the time they graduated.

Speaking with Bangalore Mirror, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Solid Waste Management, Junior Health Inspector Kirthiraj said that six pourakarmikas participated in the clean-up drive. "We participate in clean-up drives regularly at different locations. Single-use plastic has become a nuisance at these places," he added.

The volunteers said that it would not be right to blame the BBMP for everything, especially for the garbage in water bodies. They opine some residents who continue to throw garbage around the lake's surroundings are equally responsible for the pollution of lakes.

Stating the Hulimavu Lake Road is dirty most of the time, Maneesha Ajit, a member of Hulimavu Kere Taranga, said that the road does not have a dedicated set of pourakarmikas, the BBMP does its best to clean up the road regularly. "The people are also responsible for getting the road dirty. We want students to visit our Hulimavu Lake and help with the cleaning activity. This is a learning and eye-opening experience for most of them too. They see the after-effects of how people's mindless garbage dumping, lack of garbage segregation, excessive use of single-use plastics, microplastic accumulation can impact our nature," said Ajit.

Volunteers participating in the clean up drive at Hulimavu Lake

"There was a delay in completing the development works due to payment issues between the BBMP and the contractor. There was also a delay due to the BWSSB pipe laying work – Deepashree , BBMP assistant executive engineer, Lakes Department

Emphasising the need for more students to participate in the clean-up drive, URS Nayak, a resident, said that participation in clean-up drives would enable students to know about the segregation of waste and how water bodies are being polluted.

"The students completed the numbering of street light poles installed between Sai Mandir and the Dental College. We have to thank the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) authorities for installing streetlights on this stretch. There are 47 street light poles. The numbering of street light poles will make the task of replacing fused bulbs by the authorities. At the same time, I request the BBMP Lakes Department to commence the developmental works at the lake," said Nayak.

The residents said that the BBMP issued the work order on December 28, 2021, and the project commencement ceremony was held on February 6, 2022, and the rejuvenation of Hulimavu Lake was supposed to be completed by January 2023 but the developmental work came to a standstill in July 2023.

Stating that the groundwater table in the area has dropped drastically, Mithan Subbiah of Hulimavu Kere Taranga said that local authorities and the state government have to put in their earnest efforts and political will to complete the rejuvenation of Hulimavu Lake. "We get school, and college students to come and assist in our lake cleaning initiatives. We also want them to come and enjoy the beauty of our lake, once its work is completed. It is a beautiful lake, safe for walking, and jogging. Our lake is old and needs to be developed at the earliest like Sarakki and Puttenhalli Putta Kere. Our 141 species of birds are waiting too. Our once, water-filled lake, right now is barren, an environmental disaster. It is causing a lot of anguish, distress and anger amongst all the residents, layouts around the lake," said Subbiah.

Meanwhile, BBMP assistant executive engineer (Lakes Department) Deepashree said that the construction of inlets at the lake is in progress. "There was a delay in completing the development works due to payment issues between the BBMP and the contractor. There was a delay due to the BWSSB pipe laying work," said the assistant executive engineer.

However, BWSSB engineer Pradeep said that sanitary pipes are being laid in the periphery of Hulimavu Lake. "There is a four-metre gap between the lake land and the place where sanitary pipes are being laid. The BWSSB is not responsible for the delay of Hulimavu Lake rejuvenation," the BWSSB engineer said.

Irregularities plague ward committee meetings

| Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Ward committee meetings, crucial for addressing civic issues, are facing irregularities, as per complaints from citizen activists and residents. A weekly poll by Citizens' Agenda for Bengaluru revealed that 57 per cent of respondents indicated that ward committee meetings were not being held in their areas, and 21 per cent mentioned irregular scheduling. Conversely, 21 per cent reported regular meetings.

The popularity of these meetings, which gained traction last year, was disrupted due to the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) enforced before the Karnataka Assembly Elections in 2023. Since then, they have not fully resumed. From September to December 2022, out of the 1,864 mandated ward committee meetings, Bengaluru's civic body, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), conducted 1,553, according to a study by Janaagraha, an NGO. During this period, an average of 388 meetings per month occurred across BBMP wards, ensuring at least two meetings in each ward. The peak month for ward committee meetings was October 2022, with 417 sessions, according to Janaagraha's data.

Apart from calls for regularity, concerns have been raised about structural changes. Civic activist Srinivas Alavilli suggested a lottery system for selecting ward committee members to ensure fairness and prevent political influence. He emphasised the need for gender and Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) representation.

Bengaluru has lacked an elected body since September 2020, when the BBMP's term ended. Nodal Officers currently chair ward committee meetings. Activists stress the importance of formal statutory committees led by elected councillors for transparency and accountability, achievable only after BBMP elections.

Alavilli also highlighted issues with fund allocation transparency at the ward level, proposing the establishment of designated ward offices for meetings. Many newly formed wards, due to ward delimitation, currently hold meetings in parks and other public spaces.

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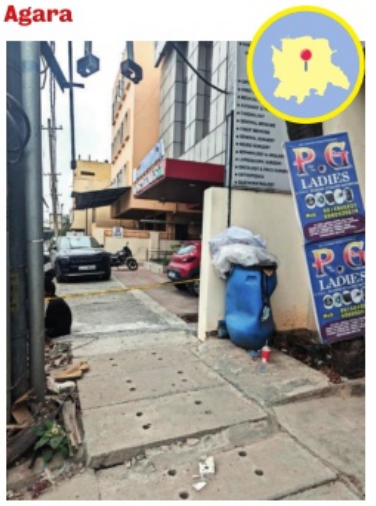
Transformer concern
Jayanagar

There is a transformer on the pavement at 33rd Cross, between 11th and 16th Main, leaving citizens to wonder about its safety for pedestrians.

Encroachers issue
Agara



Footpath encroachers near Agara Flyover are a cause for concern.

Disappearing greens
Austin Town

The park at Austin Town 5th Square is neglected, and all the greenery is fading away due to the lack of maintenance by BBMP.

Urgent hydration needed

Due to rising input expenses, majority of RO water treatment plants face closure as there is scarcity of water; citizens are compelled to search for functional alternatives

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

With a 'harsh' summer ahead, the hardships are already evident as many areas of the city face a water crisis. In fact, numerous areas have already witnessed protests over the non-supply of water. Now, the latest headache for Bengalureans is the shortage of reverse osmosis-treated drinking water. In the last few years, many RO outlets have emerged all across Bengaluru, where purified water is supplied. Most of these outlets were selling 10 litre of RO water for just Rs 5. However, now most of these RO plants have shut down.

Expressing his concerns, Yeshwanthpur resident Suneel Kumar stated, "Without an RO unit at home, I relied on these units for my daily water needs. Unfortunately, many of these units have closed down, compelling us to search for functional alternatives, resulting in long queues."

Venkatappa KM, the proprietor of an RO unit in T Dasarahalli, explained, "Due to the water shortage, we now depend on tanker water for our supply, purifying it before distributing it to retail customers. However, with the surge in tanker water prices and a significant spike in power bills, we are facing substantial losses. Regrettably, we had no choice but to shut down our unit."

Simultaneously, households reliant on tanker water have reported an increase in prices, with some areas experiencing costs as high as Rs 1,800 per tanker. This surge has triggered protests, such as the recent demonstration in Kengeri, where residents expressed dissatisfaction with the insufficient water supply. The situation remains dire, and the

community is grappling with the escalating challenges posed by the harsh summer conditions.

Meanwhile, it is not just households but even industries that are in need of water. On Monday, Heavy and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil held a meeting with various departments here and discussed finding effective solutions to solve the drinking water problem faced by various industrial areas of the state. Officials of BWSSB, Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board, and Rural Water Supply Department participated in the meeting convened at Khanija Bhawan.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister mentioned that the industrial areas of Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Chikkaballapur, Tumakuru, and Kolar districts are facing severe drinking water problems.

Furthermore, the Dharwad industrial area requires 45 MLD of drinking water every day, which can be supplied from the Hidkal reservoir. Similarly, the Vijayapura industrial area also needs to be supplied with the same amount of drinking water from the Krishna Reservoir daily. The Kalaburagi industrial area needs 7 MLD of drinking water from the Krishna and Bhima rivers, the Ballari industrial area needs 13 MLD from the Tungabhadra dam, and the Raichur industrial area needs 13 MLD from the Krishna river, he explained.

> **"Put together, all the above districts require a total of 290 MLD of water daily** –MB Patil, Minister of Heavy and Medium Industries

Expressing concern about the problem, he said, "Put together, all the above districts require a total of 290 MLD of water daily. If the required water supply is not ensured, the industrial growth of the state will suffer."

The industrial areas of Tumakuru, Bengaluru, Kolar, and Chikkaballapur located in the Old Mysuru region have already been using treated wastewater for industrial purposes. However, there is a severe shortage of drinking water in these places. Hence, the availability of the volume of water and sources from which it can be supplied needs to be identified, and another meeting would be held in this regard in a week or so, he added.

IN BRIEF

Railway police solve murder mystery

In a significant breakthrough, the railway police have successfully solved the mystery surrounding the murder of an unidentified individual at Kyatsandra Railway Station. B Sunil (28) stands accused and has been apprehended in connection with the incident, which transpired within the jurisdiction of Bengaluru rural railway limits.

According to railway police officials, the incident unfolded on February 2, around 7:30 pm, when Sunil, a native of Bellary, allegedly perpetrated a fatal assault on Kumaraswamy (28), a labourer, near the station's final platform before fleeing the scene.

The crucial lead leading to the apprehension of the suspect emerged from a phone number found on a note in Sunil's possession. Subsequent investigations into the matter culminated in the arrest of the absconding accused individual. Soumyalata, the Railway Superintendent of Police, disclosed that the probe unveiled a confrontation fueled by alcohol and financial disputes.

An unexpected twist in the narrative reveals that Kumaraswamy, originally from Vijayanagara, had been residing in Kyatsandra, employed as a construction labourer. Sunil, on the other hand, had ties to the Siddaganga Math, having attended school there during his formative years, which compelled him to visit the school on the day of the incident. Following his visit to the school, Sunil frequented a nearby bar in Kyatsandra, where he crossed paths with Kumaraswamy, who was enjoying a drink with companions at an adjacent table. What commenced as a friendly gesture from Sunil, offering drinks, eventually devolved into a confrontation over monetary matters as Kumaraswamy observed Sunil's possession of money. The altercation between the two escalated, resulting in the murder. —BMB

Woman alleges police bias after assault

Ahna Prakash
c-ahna.prakash
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A woman has alleged brutal assault by four members of her house owner's family over the matter of feeding stray dogs in Jeevan Bima Nagar. The victim, who had previously been embroiled in a dispute with the house owners over a rental agreement, also claimed that the police refused to file an FIR and "showed bias".

However, police denied the allegations, stating uncooperative behaviour from the victim. According to the victim, the altercation stemmed from a disagreement regarding a rental agreement, where the house owner purportedly demanded an additional Rs

50,000 under the pretext of his brother's impending wedding. The woman insisted that the agreement had already been finalised and she had paid the full amount after securing a loan.

According to the woman, tensions escalated when the house owners took issue with her feeding stray dogs near her apartment. "Feeding the dogs only became an issue after I refused to pay extra money," the woman told BM.

The situation escalated on Friday night when, as per the police report, the house owners broke open the woman's house gate and assaulted a dog with a door. When the woman intervened, they are said to have assaulted her.

"They hit me with the broken door. The owner slapped and punched me, while another twisted my hand and struck me on the back." She managed to alert the authorities by dialling emergency services (112), leading to police intervention.

"When I reached the police station late at night, the policeman refused to file an FIR. They even commented on my culture and asked me inappropriate questions about bringing men into my apartment," she told BM.

She added that the policeman present at the station said the assault had happened because of her fault of feeding the dogs. When the police refused to file a complaint, the victim sought help from the Rise UP For Rights NGO.

Hemant from the NGO told BM that police initially filed a non-cognizable report on Saturday. "After getting her checked in the hospital, we went to the police station. However, not only did they refuse to file an FIR, they didn't seem interested in doing anything," said Hemant.

BM contacted the police, who denied the allegations of bias. "The FIR has already been filed. The woman is not cooperating with the investigation. We called her on Sunday morning, but she didn't show up. We are police, and we are taught that there should be no discrimination based on caste or culture," said a police officer.

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Forest fire training for Bandipur locals revived

K'taka Forest and Fire Departments, with United Conservation Movement reinstates fire training programmes, equipping local communities to combat forest fires after 3 years

Iffath Fathima
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Bandipur wildfire destroys 10 acres, swiftly doused by Forest Department. Inset: Officials orient the participants about the various tools used for fire extinguishing.

In collaboration with the Karnataka Forest Department and the Karnataka Fire and Emergency Services Department, the United Conservation Movement organised a firefighting training workshop for local community members at Bandipur Tiger Reserve today.

Dr Ramesh Kumar, the field director of Bandipur Tiger Reserve, and the District Forest Officer addressed the participants. They spoke about the devastating impact of forest fires and urged local residents to join hands with the government in safeguarding forests, wildlife, and biodiversity.

The United Conservation Movement has been organizing forest firefighting training programs for the past eight years. However, when Covid 19 emerged, the training sessions were halted. Although they were scheduled to resume in December 2023, they were postponed. Finally, after a hiatus of three years, the workshop has now been restarted. On February 5, the workshop took place in collaboration with forest officials and local residents from the forest fringe villages of Bandipur.

Containing the forest fire and extinguishing it

The Forest Department arrived from Gundulpet with two extinguishing vehicles. Gururaj, the District Fire Officer from Chamrajnagar, along with nine of his staff, provided hands-on training on using the equipment. They oriented the participants about various tools such as chemical fire extinguishers, air blowers, fire beaters, and fire engines.

Over 22 youths from the surrounding villages of Gundulpet, Nanjangudu, and other areas attended the training programme. They will receive participation certificates from the Fire Department, Forest Department, and the United Conservation Movement. These trained individuals will be available during forest fire emergencies to assist the Forest Department with the hands-on experience they have gained. Moreover, they will support the Forest Department by providing water and other necessities when personnel are actively firefighting.

Daniel Sukumar, a Trustee of the United Conservation Movement, said, "We have been conducting the training for the past eight years. It started when a big fire had happened in Bandipur. We decided to help the Forest Department along with the locals, and we started the training program. We train both forest officials and locals. Now, since the forest officials are already trained, the aim is to train the locals. We had a gap due to Covid-19 and have started again now. We are conducting it in Bandipur and Bannerghata. This year, we wanted to do it in Nagarhole, but due to logistics, we couldn't do it. So, we initiated again in Bandipur. Early detection and containing of fire are most important, as every hour counts. We spoke about the man-made forest fire awareness."

Sukumar further added, "Right now, the locals underwent training in connecting the hose pipe with different types of nozzles and using the Quick Response Vehicle (QRV) to extinguish small fires. They also learned to use tree cutters to cut down dry, burning trees to contain the fire."

The training involved awareness of man-made fires caused by the Forest Department. "Early detection and containment of fire are important as every hour counts," he added.

Truecaller & K'taka Govt securing connections

The Karnataka government signed a Letter of Intent on Monday with the caller ID and spam blocking app Truecaller to enhance cyber safety awareness and promote secure digital communication in the state.
A statement issued by the IT minister's office mentioned that Truecaller would conduct a series of initiatives to improve online safety awareness, providing practical tips to prevent citizens from falling prey to scams. It will also enable them to safeguard their personal information and use digital communication tools responsibly.

During the MoU signing, IT Minister Priyank Kharge stated, "This partnership underscores the Government of Karnataka's commitment to prioritising the safety of our citizens in the digital ecosystem. Cybercrimes and fraud in digital communication are growing rapidly with advancing technology, exposing vulnerable citizens to high risk. The government is taking proactive steps to raise awareness and promote safety in digital communications. Bengaluru is synonymous with innovation and is recognised as a thriving tech hub. We take pride in adopting a collaborative approach to enhancing citizens' online safety here."

Regarding the initiative, Rishit Jhunjhunwala, Chief Product Officer and MD Truecaller India, said, "At Truecaller, we are consistently working towards improving fraud prevention and are confident that this collaboration will assist citizens of Karnataka in staying one step ahead of fraudsters." —PTI

BM Trippin' Tales

Consumer Connect Initiative

Biligundlu: Unveiling nature's tranquil beauty off the beaten path

Sridhar.Vivan@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Step into the allure of Biligundlu, an undiscovered jewel that frequently finds itself in the spotlight during the Cauvery crisis. Beneath the surface of the headlines lies a captivating realm, ready to be explored and unfolding a mesmerising world.

Tucked away between the border of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu (the Cauvery River divides the border between the two states here) Biligundlu is more than just a name associated with politics and water measurement; it is a scenic haven that beckons the adventurous traveller. Venture into the lush embrace of nature as you make your way through the shortest route from Bengaluru, weaving through towns and forests that build anticipation for the beauty that awaits.

The adventure begins as you traverse the route via Hosur, passing through the town of Denkanikote, which serves as a gateway to the dense forests that lie ahead. Anchetty follows, introducing you to a landscape of valleys and forests, setting the stage for the awe-inspiring spectacle that awaits. Villages near Natrampalli offer the first glimpses of the majestic Cauvery River flowing towards the iconic Mettur Dam.

As you wind your way down through roads that seem to be embraced by nature itself, the first village to welcome you is Biligundlu. A small hamlet in Tamil Nadu, yet a place where the locals seamlessly understand and converse in Kannada, adding a cultural touch to your journey.

Park your vehicle, preferably with a driver, as you prepare to step into the tranquillity of Biligundlu. A walk to the riverbed reveals the true beauty of the Cauvery, but caution is advised. The river, with its powerful undercurrents and swirling whirlpools, demands respect and keeps adventurers at a safe distance.

Unlike other commercialised destinations, Biligundlu retains its natural charm, offering a serene escape. While there may be no hotels nearby, the experience is enriched by the presence of coracles operated by locals. Witness villagers transporting their two-wheelers across the river on these traditional boats, opening up paths to explore the other side leading to the Male Mahadeshwara temple, with intriguing associations to the birth of the notorious brigand, Veerappan, and the mystical town of Palar.

For those seeking an adventurous journey, buses connecting Bengaluru to Hogenakkal make a pit stop at Biligundlu, presenting an opportunity to include this captivating destination in your travel itinerary.

Biligundlu, with its untamed beauty and cultural richness, invites you to step off the beaten path and immerse yourself in an unforgettable travel experience. Head to this hidden paradise, where the journey is as captivating as the destination itself, promising memories that linger long after the adventure concludes.

Route: Bengaluru-Hosur-Anchetty-Natrampalli-Biligundlu
Approximate distance: 140 kilometres

HEALTH TIP: Starfruit has a positive impact on heart health primarily because it is low in sodium and high in potassium

Because it improves metabolism, matcha tea may also help spur your weight loss process

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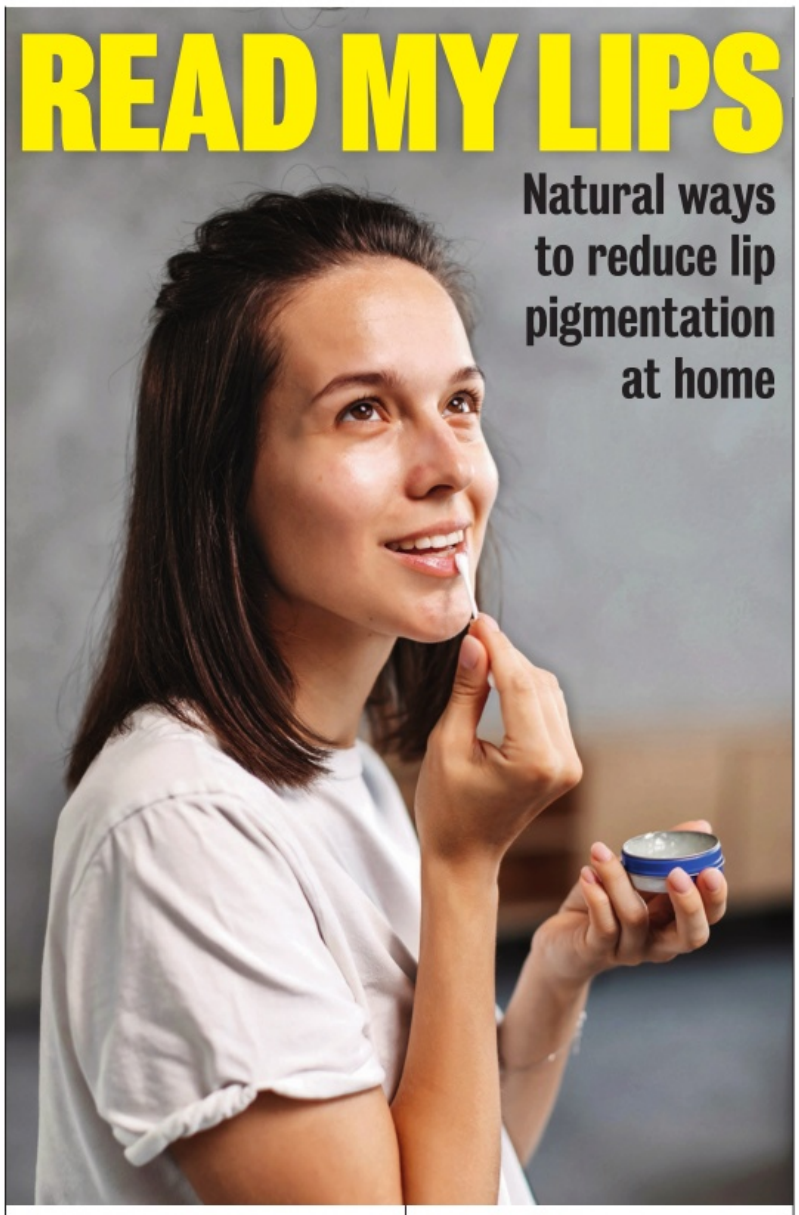
READ MY LIPS

Natural ways to reduce lip pigmentation at home



We are all born with different lip shades. But something we have in common is the urge to have rosy lips. Lip pigmentation, characterized by the darkening of the skin on the lips, can be a common concern for many individuals. These pigmentation issues can not only affect the aesthetics of your lips but also impact your self-confidence.

However, the good news is that there are several effective methods to address and reduce lip pigmentation. In this guide, we will explore various techniques and remedies to help you get rid of lip pigmentation and achieve healthier, more evenly toned lips. How to remove lip pigmentation you ask? Here are some ways.

Causes Of Dark Lips

Lips Pigmentation means coloring. Your skin gets its color from a pigment called melanin. Here are a few other reasons that cause pigmentations.

- Excessive Sun Exposure
- Dehydration
- Smoking
- Cosmetics
- Hormonal Changes
- Allergic Reactions

Ways To Get Rid Of Dark Lips Naturally

Lemon

Citrus fruits like lemons are known for their skin-lightening properties. It has skin-brightening and exfoliating properties.
How To Apply - Mix lemon juice with water to avoid any irritations and then apply it using a cotton swab.

Turmeric

Turmeric is sometimes used in natural remedies for skin care, including the potential of how to remove lip pigmentation.
How To Apply - Take some turmeric powder and mix it with yogurt to form a thick paste. Apply the paste to your lips. Keep it for 5-10 minutes and then rinse it.

Coconut Oil

Coconut oil has emollient and moisturizing properties.[3] Coconut helps with improving overall skin texture. It is one of the best solutions for any kind of lip issue.
How To Apply - Gently apply the coconut oil to your lips, covering the areas with pigmentation. Massage to rectify blood circulation.

Honey

Honey is a natural soothing product. It helps make your lips look healthier.
How To Apply - Leave the honey on your lips for at least 15-20 minutes or longer if desired. You can even leave it on overnight for deep moisturization.

Aloe Vera

Aloe Vera contains aloin, a compound with depigmenting properties.[4] It is a natural plant with numerous potential benefits for the skin and can be used as a gentle remedy to improve the condition of your lips and aid in removing lip pigmentation over time.
How To Apply - Massage the Aloe Vera Gel onto your lips and then rinse it once done.

Pomegranate

Pomegranate extracts were found to reduce tyrosinase activity and melanin production.[5] It also contains innumerable antioxidants and vitamins. If how to remove lip pigmentations is your concern then this helps and brightens the lips.
How To Apply - After applying pomegranate to the lips try applying a lip balm to moisturize the lips.

Rose Water

Rose water isn't a direct remedy for pigmented lips, but it helps hydrate those lips.
How To Apply - Spray the rose water onto your face.

Cucumber Juice

Cucumber contains antioxidants and silica-rich[6] that help fade pigmentation. Also, lightens skin tone.
How To Apply - Blend the cucumber and apply the paste. Repeat the process 1-2 times regularly. You can also use it in the form of a chemical peel.

Olive Oil

Olive oil is used to nourish those lips with the nutrients present in the olive oil.
How To Apply - Gently massage it in and leave it overnight to moisturize and soften your lips.
Tip: Keep the oil for a minimum of 15 minutes for better results.

Sugar

Sugar being a natural exfoliator helps remove dead skin cells that darken your lips.
How To Apply- Create a lip scrub by mixing sugar with honey or coconut oil. Gently exfoliate your lips with this mixture in a circular motion. Rinse it off to remove dead skin cells and reveal smoother lips.
Tip: You can use a sugar lip scrub for better results.

Mustard oil

Another natural product would be mustard oil. It is used in skincare but is supposed to be used cautiously to avoid side effects.
How To Apply- Apply a few drops of mustard oil on your lips. Massage it in for a minute or two. It can help to heal chapped lips and keep them soft.
Tip: Mustard oil can be a strong product. Rinse quickly if it doesn't suit you.

Almond Oil

How to get rid of pigmentated lips, you ask? Well, almond oil can help you with that.
How To Apply - Apply a small amount of almond oil to your lips. Rub it gently to ensure it's absorbed. Almond oil can provide deep hydration to dry lips.
Tip: It's great with chapped lips.

Sesame Oil

Sesame oil is a natural source of nourishing fatty acids and antioxidants, making it an excellent choice for maintaining lip health. It promotes softness and smoothness.
How To Apply - Similar to almond oil, apply a thin layer of sesame oil on your lips. Leave it on to soothe and moisturize your lips.
Tip: Use a high-quality oil to avoid any allergic reactions.

Strawberry

The delicious berries also have several potential benefits for your lips when used in skincare routines. They are rich in vitamins, antioxidants, and natural exfoliants that can help improve the overall condition of your lips.
How To Apply - Mash a ripe strawberry and apply the pulp to your lips. Let it sit for a few minutes before rinsing off.

Beetroot

The natural lip tint enhances the color and overall health of your lips. It can be used in various ways.
How To Apply - Slice a beetroot and rub a slice on your lips to impart a natural, reddish tint.

Lime

Lime, another citrus fruit, helps lighten the pigmentations and is also a great carrier of vitamin C.
How to apply - Squeeze a bit of lime juice onto your lips. The citrus can help lighten dark spots and offer a refreshing sensation.

Tips To Take Care Of Your Lips

after knowing how to remove lip pigmentation we definitely need to learn how to take care of them too. Here are some ways:

Moisturize Your Lips With Lip Balm

Regularly moisturizing your lips with a quality lip balm can help prevent dryness, chapping, and discomfort.

Exfoliate Your Lips

Exfoliating your lips can help maintain a youthful appearance, as well as improve the effectiveness of lip products like lipstick or lip balm.

Use Sun Block

Using sunblock or sunscreen on your lips is crucial for protecting them from the harmful effects of UV radiation. The skin on your lips is thin and delicate, making it more susceptible to sun damage.

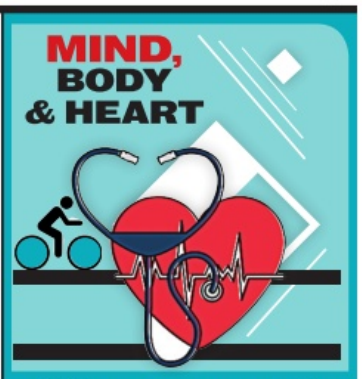
Massage With Oils

Massage with oils is a way of aromatic therapy. Again, it helps increase blood circulation.

Moisturize With Glycerine

It's a simple and effective step in your lip care routine that can make a noticeable difference in the health and appearance of your lips.

—by Prisha Raote, Femina



All you need to know about...

5 ways to stop nitpicking

Differentiate Between Nitpicking And Constructive Criticism

If your aim is to offer constructive criticism, you will focus on building up the other person and show them ways to improve. On the other hand, nitpicking is often confined to trivialities, and can involve mocking failures or being derogatory in nature. Ask yourself what your intent is, and you'll know the right way to go about it.

Be Honest With Yourself

Sometimes, we tend to drone on about one thing when we're actually bothered by another. Dig deep into your subconscious and find out what the exact issue is. Address it instead of letting it ferment while you shift focus to unnecessary arguments.

Communicate Effectively

Nobody likes to be constantly nagged about things, but where changes need to be made, put across your point clearly. If your partner is leaving their socks on the floor or not picking up their plates after meals, sit them down and tell them what about their behaviour bothers you and why. Don't resort to passive aggressive remarks or blanket statements like, "You're messy."

Exercise Control Over Your Emotions

Frustration can lead to impulsive outbursts, so avoid reacting the minute you see or hear something you don't like. Respond thoughtfully instead of reacting; manage your emotions through deep breathing or just walking away from the problem area. Take your time before bringing up the issue with the other person.

Embrace Flaws

Not everyone is perfect, and that includes you. Realise there might be things about you that your loved ones are putting up with in a graceful manner. Learn to let the unimportant things go, focus on what matters, and love people for their quirks! **IANS**

Soon devotees would be able to book services in temples through govt app

Devotees visiting major temples in Karnataka would soon be able to book pujas and other services with the State government's new app "Namma Muzrai".

The pilot version of the app which was launched on Friday offers services at the over 100-year-old Banashankari temple here which can be booked online, according to officials.

"So, in case you need to book any service in this temple, you need not wait in queues and, instead, you can book required services offered by the specific temple", an official said.

Some major temples which would be included in the app are: Chamundeshwari temple in Mysuru, Mookambika temple in Udupi and Kotilingeshwara temple in Kolar.

Muzrai and Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy told PTI: "As of now, we have it in Banashankari temple in Bengaluru. But soon, we will extend the services through the app to all other major temples of the state which are

thronged by devotees in large numbers in the next phase. There are about 34,563 temples under the department across Karnataka, so we are planning to extend the services to all these temples in a phased manner in the days to come."

The department would also be enabling in the app the government's direct-benefit-transfer of tasdik (honorarium) to temples. **PTI**

CM claims injustice to K'taka in tax devolution, loss of over Rs 45,000 cr in 4 years

Alleging injustice to Karnataka by the Central government with reduction in tax devolution, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said this has resulted in a loss of over Rs 45,000 crore to the state in the last four years.

He also claimed that the taxes paid by Kannadigas were not useful for the state's difficult times, and the money was going to northern states.

"Karnataka has faced significant challenges with a reduced tax devolution share post the 15th Finance Commission, resulting in a loss of over Rs 45,000 crore in the last 4 years. This injustice cannot stand," Siddaramaiah said on Sunday.

"We stand united in demanding fair treatment and justice for Kannadigas to secure our state's welfare," he said in a post on 'X' with the hashtag "#SouthTax Movement".

CM Siddaramaiah during the flag-off ceremony of 'Ashwamedha' KSRTC buses on Monday

The chief minister's comments come ahead of as all Congress lawmakers (also MPs) from the state, including Siddaramaiah, will be staging a protest in New Delhi on February 7, against the 'injustice' to Karnataka by the Union government when it comes to tax devolution and grants-in-aid.

Further extending support to campaigns on social media condemning the "injustice" being done to Karnataka by the Central government in tax devolution, the chief minister said, "the taxes paid by Kannadigas are not useful for our difficult times and it (money) is going to northern states."

He said, "The northern states, which are indebted to taxes paid by southern states, can never be a model for us. Everyone should get over this false idea. Karnataka, which is building a strong nation with hard work, is a model for India."

Thanking the people of the state who have raised their voice for justice, he said, adding "I am with you, if all our voices are united, it will be heard till Delhi." **PTI**

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Akshay Prashant Hegde S/o Prashant Hegde aged about 28 years residing at C-306, Old Fish Market Road, Kumta, Uttara Kannada, Karnataka-581343 wish to state that my father's name is incorrectly printed as Prashant in my passport. It should be corrected to Prashant Hegde as per my DL,SSLC marks sheet and his passport vide affidavit dtd: 05/02/2024 sworn before notary Uday Kumar K, Bengaluru.

I, Tambarparni Ramprasad, R/a. No. 175, Neela Basava, 5th Main, NR TATA Promont, Sapthagiri L/O, Hosakerehalli, B'lore- 85. I have changed my name to TAMRAPARNI RAMA PRASAD. Vide affidavit dt: 03.02.2024. Sworn before notary: Devaraja. E.

I, Sajeeda Khatoon W/O Mohammed Haneef Resi at 501/1 2nd Crs Chamundi Nagar. Bangalore- 32. Whereas my name spelling mention in property document and Others Official Documents is Sajida Khatoon. that both name stand same and that is me.

I, NINGARAJU M.N S/o Nathe Gowda, Residing at No.10, 7th Cross, 12th Main Road, Raghavendra Block Srinagar, Phase, Bangalore-560050, declare that we have Changed our minor daughter name from PAVANA .N GOWDA to PAVANA NINGARAJU vide affidavit dated 2/2/2024 sworn before Notary BKR Krishnamurthy Bangalore.

I, Shree Niranjanandpuri Mahaswamigalu S/o H R Gurusiddayya Odayar, Shree Kaginele Mahasamstana, Kanakaguru peeta, Kaginele PO, Byadgi Tq, Haveri 581110 have changed my name to Jagadguru Shree Niranjananandapuri Mahaswamiji Affidavit Dt.05/02/2024 notary, Harisha G, Bengaluru

I, Lavanya W/o Muthuraj Subramani R/o No.18, 1st Main Road, N.R.I Layout, Double Road, Dooravaninagar, B'luru -560016 have changed my name to Lavanya Muthuraj, Affidavit Dt.05/02/2024 Notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Yogesh Rama Poojary R/o No.24/3, 9th A cross, Old 5th cross, 3rd block, Thyagra - janagar Bengaluru 560028 have changed my name to YOGESH POOJARI affidavit Dt.05/02 /2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Prathima W/o Mohan Kumar R/o Beside Sujatha Ravindra Kalyana Mantapa,vivekananda Rd, MV Extn., Hosakote Town Bangalore Rural 562114 have changed my name to Prathima Nagaraj for all purposes.

I Shaik Sanjimthara W/O, Nasir Ahmed Shaik R/o S Flat No Sf204 2nd Flr Nms Solitaire No49 4th Crs, Rd Bheemanna Lyt K B Sandra, Bengaluru have changed my name to Sanjim Fathima Shaik.

I Mohan Kumar S/o Subra - manya R/o Villa Vf 22, pruksha Silvana, nimbekaipura, Mandur Post, Bengaluru 560049 have changed my name to Mohan Kumar Javaranahalli Subramanya for all purposes.

I Zaheer Zameerud Din S/o Zaheerud Din R/o No: 86, Ground Flr 7th Main 7th Cross, RPC Layout New Colony, Bangalore 560040 have changed my name to Zameeruddin for all purposes

I, Jagadish G S/O, Chandrashekar G B R/o No 176 Sarvamangala Building 5th Cross A G B Layout, Chikkabanavara, Bengaluru 560090 have changed my name to Jagadish C for all purposes.

I, Sheetal Arvind W/o Arvind R/o 20 2nd Cross winnfield garden Dr shivaram karanth nagar has changed my spouse name from Arvind to Arvind Madivalappa Sherikar.

I, VOILET MARY.L.W/o, Vijay Kumar. R, Residing at, No.88, Anthony Nicolas Street, Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru-560025, have changed my Name to VIOLET VIJAY KUMAR, vide Affidavit dated:05.02.2024, sworn before Notary, V. Rajashekhara, Bangalore.

I, SHRUTI JINDAL, Residing at, No.B-401, Rose Garden Apartments, Arekere, B.G. Road, Bengaluru-560076, have changed my Name to SHRUTI MITTAL, vide Affidavit dated:05.02.2024, sworn before Notary, V. Rajashekhara, Bangalore.

I, Rohith Gowda S/o Mohan Kumar.J.S R/o 80, Gr Sunvilla, Nimbekaipura, mandur Post, bengaluru 560049 have changed my name to Rohith Gowda Mohan Kumar for all purposes.

I Malay Bipin Sanghavi R/o 422, Sai Charita Green Oaks, Phase 2, Horamavu Main Road, Horamavu, Bangalore - 560043, have changed my name to Malay Sanghavi

I, Bharathi Mahadev W/o R Mahadevaiah R/o #50/1 APK Rd 2nd Block T R Nagar B'lore-560028 have changed my name to Bharathi N for all purposes.

LOST & FOUND

MISSING katha certificate(arkavathi/2792/08-09) of kemparama s/o late chikkaramaiah, arkavathi layout 7th block No 2792 name kemparama s/o late chikkaramaiah DT 06.08.08

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Some movement on double-decker plan

BMTC floats tender to procure 10 buses planned to run on 3 routes

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has finally floated a tender to introduce 10 double-decker buses in the city. Buses are to run on three routes where BMTC predicts no vertical clearance issues.

BMTC has finally got the ball rolling on the double-decker bus proposal after much delay.

BMTC has floated a Request for Proposal Selection of Service Provider for Procurement, Operation and Maintenance of 10 Double Decker AC Electric Buses on Gross Cost Contract (GCC) Model under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) and State Urban Transport Fund (SUTF) of Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT). These are 900mm floor height double decker AC electric buses that will be mandated to run 52,500 km (150 assured Km/day/bus X 350 days). The battery shall have the capacity to operate daily assured 150 km at 80% SOC with 1-2 hours of charging time.

BMTC has identified Depot-7(Subashnagar) for running the double-decker buses. "We have floated a tender and we have planned the deployment of these buses on three routes. We have planned the routes from Majestic to Shivajinagar, Shivajinagar to Market, and Majestic to Attibele. We are not foreseeing any major changes to existing skywalks on foot-over bridges in this area. We would have to make minor changes by trimming trees, etc," said a senior BMTC official.

The double-deckers will have a vertical height of 4.4 m to 4.7 m and could pose a difficulty with deployment in some areas.

In January 2024, BMTC received the official nod from the Karnataka government to procure 10 electric double-deckers.

In the late 90s, BMTC used to run double-decker buses through Shivajinagar, Jayanagar, MG Road, and City Market. But Bengalureans last saw double deckers in 2014.

Delayed lake revival troubles Varthur residents

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

January 2021 along with Bellandur Lake revival but got delayed by three months as there was a delay in identifying location for dumping silt removed from the waterbodies.

The BDA engineers succeeded in removing the silt from Varthur Lake with support from activists who convinced farmers around Varthur and nearby areas to use the silt as manure for their agricultural land.

Though the residents of Varthur are happy with the BDA engineers for removing silt from the lake, they are disappointed with the delay in taking up developmental works. They said they could not access the lake for a walk due to lack of pathways.

"I am unhappy with the BDA engineers for not taking measures to commence the developmental works at Varthur Lake. No efforts are made to pump out sewage that entered the lake four months ago. There are no street lights on the lake bund.

The pathways are yet to be developed. The diversion channel carries around 300 MLD sewage. The authorities have to take measures to fix this problem," said Jagadeesh Reddy of Varthur Rising.

He said the water quality in the lake is far from satisfactory. "The authorities have to replace the fence that is either broken or damaged. There are two illegal dry waste collection centres on the lake land. The people working at the dry waste collection centres are dumping low quality plastic in the lake. Majority of CCTV cameras installed around the lake are not functioning," he added.

Meanwhile, BDA assistant executive engineer Kavitha 'who joined the civic body on a deputation a few months ago', said developmental works such as pathways, development of wetland, street lights and other works will be taken up at an estimated cost of Rs 50 crore.

"We will float a tender inviting bidders to take up developmental works," she said.

 # Open to work
Aamir Khan says he is back to movies after a short break that helped him reconnect with his family. He revealed that he also started learning Hindustani classical music during this period

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Hyperlink romance

Kenja Chethan Kumar, who handled the megaphone for movies Prema Geema Jaane Do and Devaru Bekagidare, is busy promoting his latest movie Chow Chow Bath. Kumar began his career as a director with Prema Geema Jaane Do.

Kumar, who is well-known for selecting different titles for his movies, claims that his third movie is a hyperlink romantic comedy. "It is about boys and girls and their relationships and ambitions. The movie consists of three stories. The screenplay is unique. I am confident of its success," said Kumar.

The other specialty of the movie is that its trailer got a UA certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification but the movie got a U certificate.

The trailer of Chow Chow Bath was released at SRV Theater recently by producer Sateesh SB along with his better half. Avinash Shetty of Big Boss fame graced the trailer launch of the movie. "The shooting of the movie began in 2022 and it was supposed to be released last November but got delayed due to some reasons. We have decided to release it next month," the director said.

The movie features Sagar Gowda, Sankalp Sharma, Sushmitha Bhat, Aruna Balaraj, Dhanush Baikampady, Geetha Bangera, Prakrush Sastri.

You've got Email

The cast and crew of Email, a women-oriented suspense thriller, are on cloud nine that Karunada Chakravarthi Dr Shivarajkumar released the Kannada version's teaser recently. Dr Shivarajkumar wished the team of Email which is made in Kannada and Tamil all the best.

Ragini Dwivedi aka Thuppa Hudugi plays the lead in the movie bankrolled by SR Rajan under the SR Film Factory banner. Rajan has also handled the megaphone for this movie.

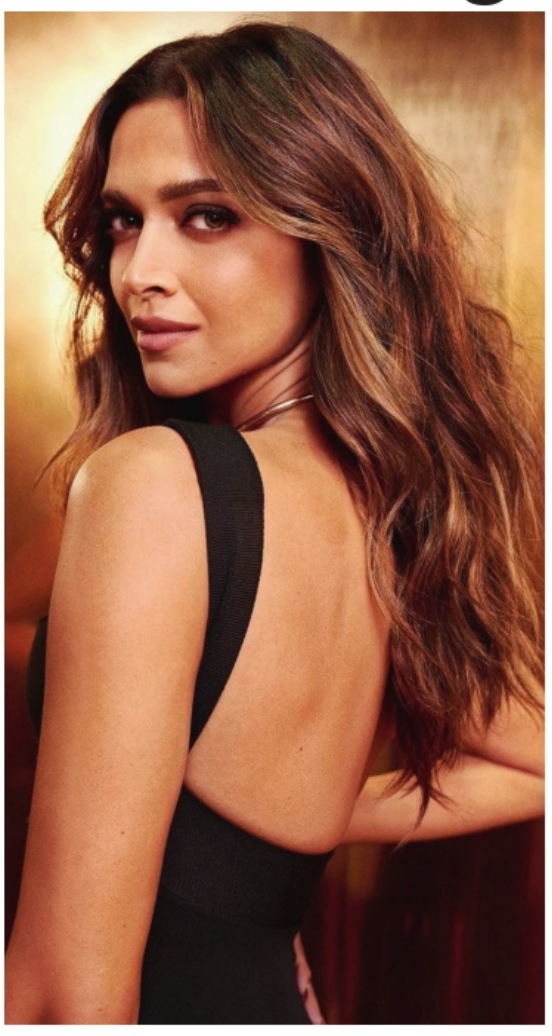
It is said the movie is about how the cybercrime mafia is exploiting gullible youth, especially women. Ragini Dwivedi plays a woman who becomes a victim of cybercriminals and how she gets out of the web of the mafia is the film's story. Arathi Sri, a Bengali actress, plays the second heroine in Email.

The movie features Tamil actor late Manobala and Lollu Sabha Manohar, Adhav Balaji, Akshay Raj, Srushti, Sinchana, Ananya, and Ashok Kumar Balakrishnan.

It is said Ragini had to struggle a lot during the shooting of the movie on beaches at Chennai and Pondicherry.

The movie is expected to release shortly. Jubin has scored the music for the Tamil version while Kannada movie I Love You fame Kiran Thotambyle has scored music for the Kannada version. Lyrics were written by Santhosh Naik for the Kannada version.

Sincerely yours



How Deepika nails the emotional scenes

Deepika Padukone, who is currently flying high on the success of her latest film, 'Fighter', delved into her approach to handling multiple tasks, the method she uses to establish priorities, and how her sincerity resonates in her on-screen performances.

When questioned about her process for creating emotional scenes and the profound impact they have on the audience, Deepika stressed the importance of honesty in her work.

She explained that, for her, expressing herself is not about using any particular technique but rather about being authentic. Deepika stated that she feels uncomfortable with dishonesty and filters, emphasizing her willingness to embrace vulnerability, acknowledge mistakes, and be open to confrontation. She highlighted the significance of maintaining a clean heart and soul in her approach.

Despite being aware of making mistakes, Deepika believes it's crucial to understand the reasons behind her actions, which, she believes, contributes to the touching nature of her performances. Juggling multiple responsibilities can be tiring, and Deepika Padukone discussed her method for prioritizing tasks. She explained that as you advance in life, there comes a point where you let go of most things, holding onto only what adds value. In the earlier years, the focus was on wanting everything. However, with time, one begins to filter and choose what will genuinely enrich life. Deepika now evaluates everything in life with purpose and meaning, making it her primary filter. —ETimes

Bhumi opens up on insecurities

Actress Bhumi Pednekar opened up about her insecurities and the transformative power of embracing imperfections.

In a conversation with Pinkvilla, Bhumi shared how external opinions and online criticism often contribute to her insecurities. The actress admits to choosing film roles that serve as a form of personal therapy, allowing her to confront and overcome these insecurities. Despite the internet's harshness, Bhumi acknowledges the fleeting moments of self-doubt but asserts her commitment to moving past those challenges.

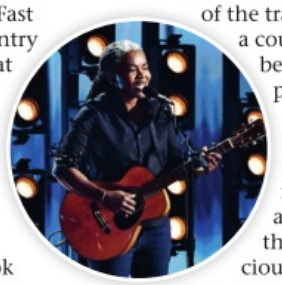
Notably, Bhumi expresses that her freedom lies in front of the camera, describing it as a space where she feels secure and liberated. The actress believes that the act of portraying someone else on screen allows her to disconnect from societal expectations and embrace her true self.

Addressing the importance of happiness, Bhumi emphasizes that self-contentment is vital for personal well-being. She encourages celebrating small victories in life as a means of navigating through the pressures of success and societal norms.

The acclaimed actress prepares for her upcoming venture, 'Bhakshak,' where she steps into the role of a courageous journalist. Directed by Pulkit, 'Bhakshak' revolves around some mysterious cases of torture and abuse being covered up at a shelter for young girls.. — ETimes

All applause after rare iconic live performance

Veteran Hollywood singer-songwriter Tracy Chapman performed her 1988 iconic track "Fast Car" alongside country artist Luke Combs at the 66th Grammy Awards, hosted by Trevor Noah.



The two singers, though hailing from different generations and musical genres, took the stage together on February 4 for a duet rendition of the song that has generated massive success for both of them. Decades after its initial release, "Fast Car" re-entered the charts when Combs' cover of the track, infused with a country sensibility, became immensely popular in 2023.

Dressed all in black, Chapman kicked off the first performance at the Grammys to the sounds of voracious cheers from the star-studded audience which included Kacey Musgraves, Taylor Swift and Kelly Clarkson. —IANS

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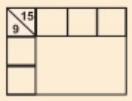
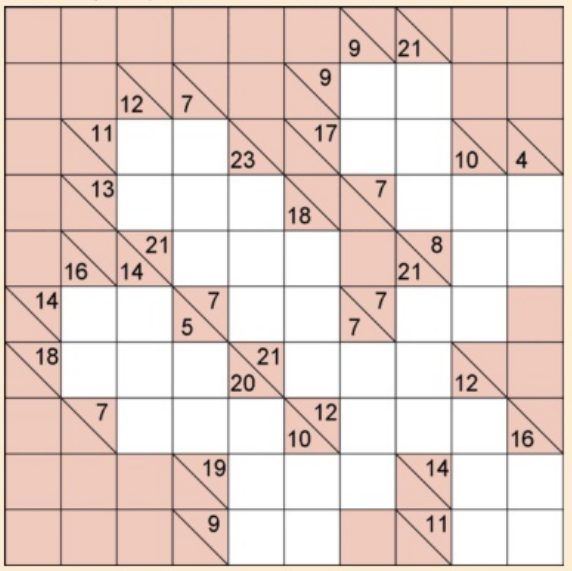
Kakuro

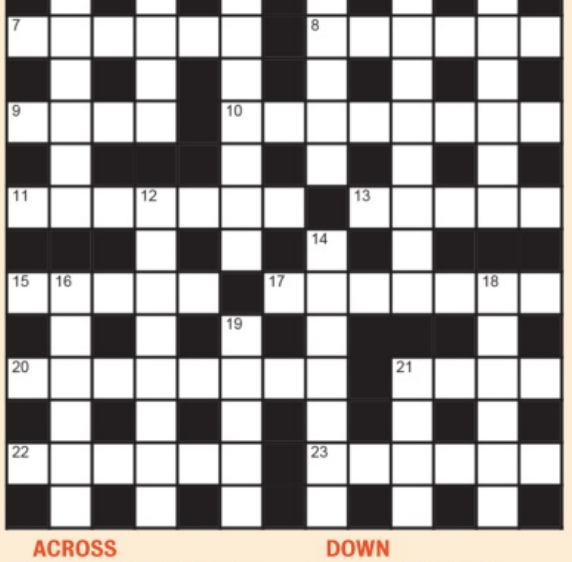


The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Largest of islands forming Japan (6)
8 An ascetic or a recluse (6)
9 Emmets (4)
10 Achieved, did or consummated (8)
11 Centre-piece for folk dancing (7)
13 Wharves (5)
15 Bone prefix (5)
17 Small swift antelope (7)
20 1983 World Cup winning captain (5,3)
21 Called (4)
22 Cosmetics (4-2)
23 Got oneself free from (6)

DOWN

1 Australian lizard (6)
2 Venomous snakes (4)
3 In a bizarre or eccentric manner (7)
4 Husks of grain (5)
5 Break a bone (8)
6 Probable (6)
12 Was in charge of a meeting, perhaps (8)
14 Vary cue anagram for a South Indian river (7)
16 Sacred Egyptian beetle (6)
18 Person used by borrower (6)
19 Become accustomed (5)
21 Frees or relieves from (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: S EQUALS P

VLY AYU VT XYQJM C MTTP HCJCMYN QE AYYSQJM VLY SYTSRY BLT LCVY HY CBCU ZNTH VLTEY BLT CNY EVQRR GJPYIQPYP.

Linemaro

Is your body from McDonalds? Because I'm lovin' it

Mindchow

Where there is shouting, there is no true knowledge

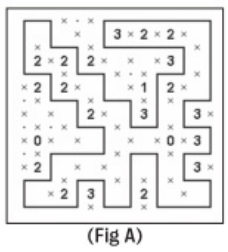
Joke of the day

After all the terrorist attacks, I felt really sorry for the people who speak Arabic. They order anything on a plane and that's it, they're dragged off in a headlock

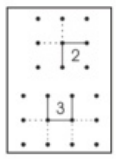
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

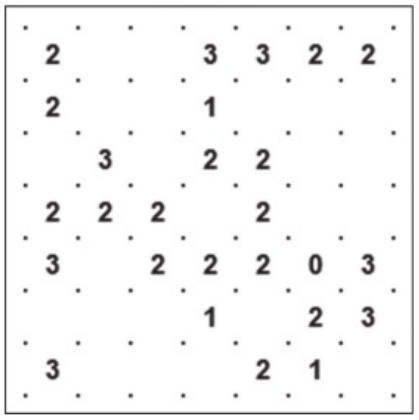


(Fig B) Not Allowed

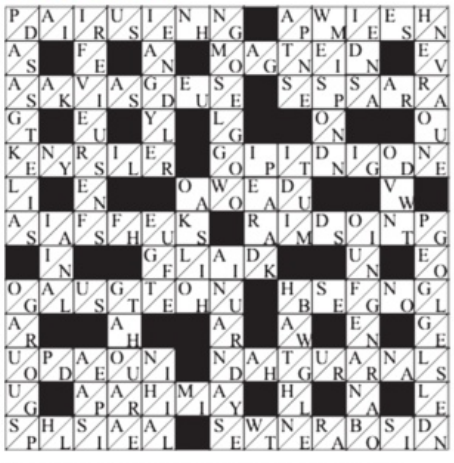
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



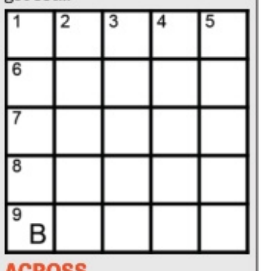
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

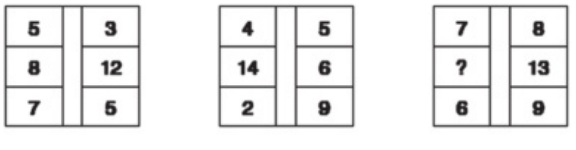
1 Trips; 6 Anole; 7 En Che; 8 Ion in; 9 Snag B

DOWN

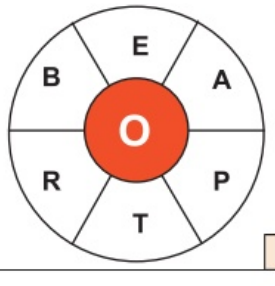
1 I bash; 2 Penal; 3 Inn or; 4 Coign; 5 Tense

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

14 Average; 16 Good; 18 Outstanding

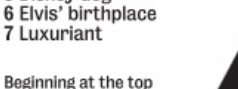
SudokuChallenge

			4		9			
	8			2		7		
	2		5		7	1		6
3			8				6	
7	6						3	1
	1				6			2
2		5	9		8		4	
		9		7			1	
			6		5			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 32
6 8 9 9

Medium = 28
2 4 6 9

Hard = 6
1 3 8 1

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Menu is shorter. 2. Back of chair is shorter. 3. Button is lower. 4. Light is moved. 5. Finger is moved. 6. Waiter has wider shoulders.

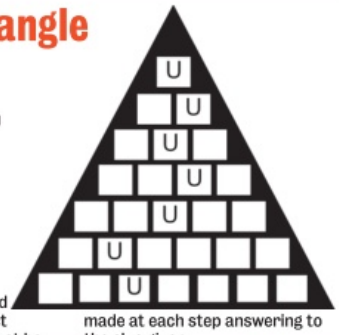
Riddler

Not all of the knights of the Rounnd Table were well known. Can you figure out the names frome the clues given, Example: The knight who no one believed – Sir Real

1. The knight who was afraid to fight
2. The kight too big to sit at the table.
3. The knight who exceeded expectations

Alpha triangle

1 21st letter
2 Et Brute
3 Deposit
4 Sullen expression
5 Disney dog
6 Elvis' birthplace
7 Luxuriant



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

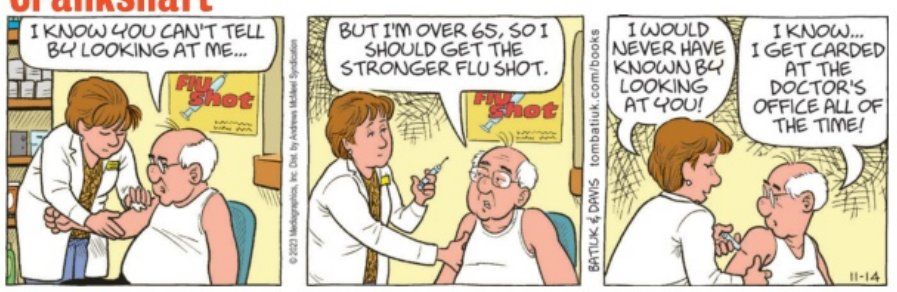
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

HOW'S DADDY-DAUGHTER WORK DAY GOING FOR YOU? SINCE YA KNOW... STEPDAD STUFF.
DARREN'S GREAT! HE'S KNOWN ME FOR ABOUT AS LONG AS MY REAL DAD KNEW ME.
BESIDES, IT WAS EITHER THIS OR SPEND THE DAY AT THE CEMETERY.
MORBID. YOU'RE HONEST, BUT MORBID.

Crankshaft


I KNOW YOU CAN'T TELL BY LOOKING AT ME...
Flu Shot
BUT I'M OVER 65, SO I SHOULD GET THE STRONGER FLU SHOT.
I WOULD NEVER HAVE KNOWN BY LOOKING AT YOU!
I KNOW... I GET CARDED AT THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE ALL OF THE TIME!
11-14

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, your subordinate staff may be cooperative, which may help you complete postponed projects. You are likely to join some social events, which may boost your network and help you in your work or social life. You may plan to go on an outing with friends. Some disputes with friends may be settled now. Students are advised to avoid being careless.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, your communication skills may help you on a professional front. You are likely to be more polite with everyone around you, which may help you speed up your projects. Lovebirds are likely to exchange their views with each other, which may lay the foundation of their relationship.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are blessed by the moon. A new partnership may give you benefits. Your energy level is likely to be high. Your hard work and enthusiasm may pay off in terms of financial gains. Self-respect may protect you from the negative people around you.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may feel dullness and unhappiness. You are advised to avoid having harsh conversations with friends and family members. You may also not be able to get proper reciprocation for your hard work. You need to follow your intuition. Advised to keep patience while taking some important decisions.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, new sources of income are likely to be opened. Your past investments may give you a good profit, which will boost your bank balance. You are likely to connect with a social organisation, which will increase your network. Singles may find a soul mate in terms of marriage.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, blessings from elders may make you confident. You can follow your intuition before taking any initiatives that may help you at work. Your intuition may help you gain more in terms of finance. You are likely to visit some religious place with your family members. You must control your arrogance to enjoy your domestic life. Students may expect good results with the help of destiny.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may expect some instant gains in your business, which may boost your confidence level as well as your bank balance. Advised to avoid stress in domestic life. There would be some momentum on the business and workfront. Your prestige may be increased. You may also plan for an overseas trip.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, things would not be favourable. You may feel dull and unhappy. Some mysterious fear may make you upset. You are likely to be attracted by the occult. You may feel a lack of confidence, which may affect your work. It is best to avoid rash driving and risky adventure tours.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon. Love would be in the air in terms of personal life. Singles may find a suitable match. You may do better in terms of your professional life. Your friends and subordinate staff are likely to support you.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may be able to make a balance between your earnings and expenses, which may boost your bank balance. You are likely to perform better in your job. Your boss can give you new responsibilities in terms of promotions. You may get back your money, which was stuck. You may be able to control your opponents and hidden enemies.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel dull due to sleeplessness; you may be scattered towards your goals, which may affect your working efficiency. You may plan to visit some religious place. But in the late evening, you may be blessed by your elders; you may find out your mistakes and make a good plan for the coming day. You are advised to take care of your parent's health.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be in a hurry. You are advised to drive safely. But with the blessing of the elders, you may come out of this messy situation. You are likely to be more romantic in your love life, and harmony in your domestic life may come. You may expect some positive results in new partnerships. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments. Students may hear good news in terms of academics.

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Jnana Sweekar
Public School

Manith S,
13 years,
Icchaa Public
School

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
1/3 ÷ 1/6
1/2 × 1/5
1/3 × 6/1
1/10
6/3
1/10
6/3 × 10 = 60/3 = 20

RIDDLER
1. Sir Render,
2. Sir Round,
3. Sir Passed

QUOTE UNCODE
The key to being a good manager is keeping the people who hate me away from those who are still undecided.

FAST FIVE

S	P	R	I	T
A	L	O	N	E
H	E	N	C	E
I	N	I	O	N
B	A	N	G	S

STRIKE OUT

P	A	R	S	I	N	G		A	M	I	S	H		
A		E		N		O	A	T	E	N		E		
S	A	V	A	G	E	S		E	S	S	A	R		
T		E		L		L		O		O		O		
E	Y	R	I	E		O	P	I	N	I	O	N		
L		E		O	W	E	D		W					
S	A	S	H	E	S		A	I	D	I	N	G		
		I		F	L	A	R		N		O			
G	L	U	T	T	O	N		B	E	F	O	G		
R		H		A		A		E		G				
O		A		P	I	L	D	E	V		R	A	N	G
C		S		A		U			E					
O	S	T	E	O		G	A	Z	E	L	L	E		
		R		Y		C		R						
M	A	Y	P	O	L	E		O	U	A	Y	S		
		N		R			F		T		L			
A	N	T	S		E	F	F	E	C	T	E	D		
	A		P		E		A		K					
H	O	N	S	H	U		H	E	R	M	I	T		
G		A		O		C		F		L				

QUICK

BULL'S EYE
abort, atop, boar, boat, boater, bore, probe, robe, rope, rote, tope, tore

MENSA PUZZLE
17: 8 + 9 = 17; 7 + 6 = 13

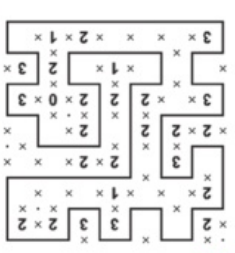
SUDOKU

8	3	1	6	4	5	2	7	9
6	4	9	3	7	2	8	1	5
2	7	5	9	1	8	6	4	3
5	1	4	7	3	6	9	8	2
7	6	8	2	9	4	5	3	1
3	9	2	8	5	1	4	6	7
4	2	3	5	8	7	1	9	6
9	8	6	1	2	3	7	5	4
1	5	7	4	6	9	3	2	8

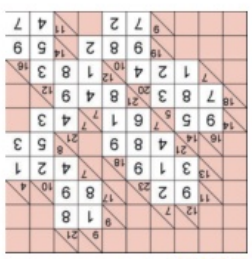
ALPHA TRIANGLE
U, Tu, Put, Pout, Pluto, Tupelo, Opulent.

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 + 8 + 9 + 9 = 32
Medium
4 x 9 – 2 – 6 = 28
Hard
8 – 3 x 1 + 1 = 6

LOOP



KAKURO



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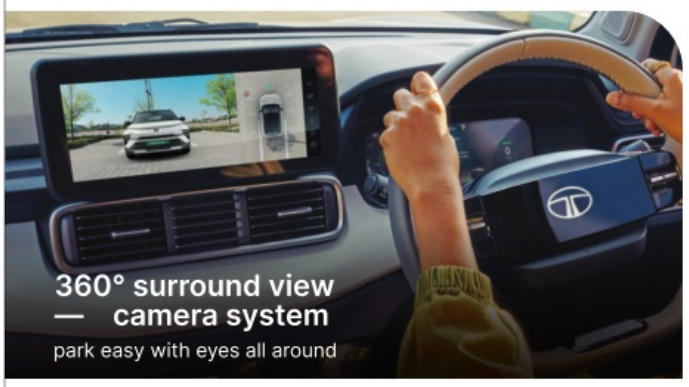

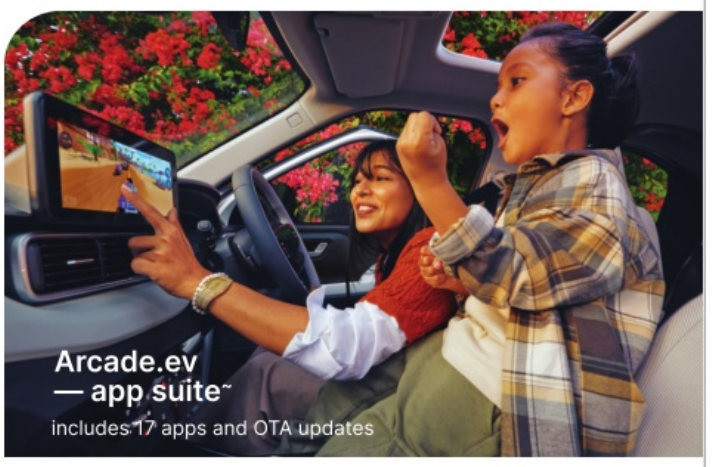

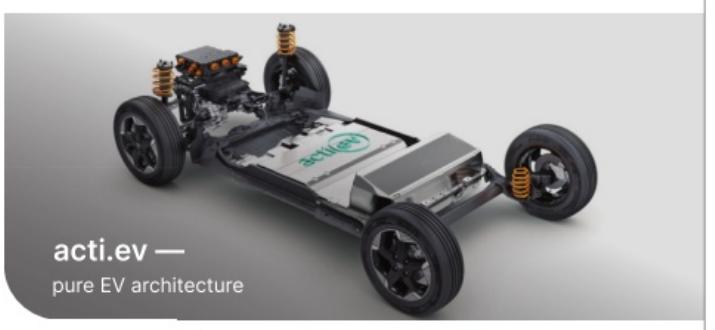

Air Purifier with AQI Display

Ventilated Leatherette Seats

ZConnect## & Smart Watch Connectivity^^

6 Airbags

Electronic Parking Brake with Auto Hold

Electronic Stability Program

Wireless Smartphone Charger

Wireless Android Auto™ and Apple CarPlay™

OTA Updates

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BENGALURU: PRERANA MOTORS, LALBAGH ROAD – 7045298046; **PRERANA MOTORS, RAJAJI NAGAR** – 7045298442; **PRERANA MOTORS, BTM LAYOUT** – 7045298742; **PRERANA MOTORS, YELAHANKA, JAKKUR –** 8291326101; **KHT MOTORS, KUNDALAHALLI –** 7045295906; **KHT MOTORS, DOMLUR** – 7045297015; **KEY MOTORS, KANAKPURA ROAD –** 7045294098; **KEY MOTORS, MYSORE ROAD –** 8291298566; **KEY MOTORS, NELAMANGALA –** 8291335249; **KEY MOTORS, BANNERGHATTA ROAD** – 8291309613; **KEY MOTORS, MAGADI MAIN ROAD –** 8291336521; **KROPEX AUTO, HOSUR MAIN ROAD, SINGASANDRA –** 7045297742; **KROPEX AUTO, KORAMANGALA –** 8291298568; **KROPEX AUTO, SARJAPUR ROAD –** 8291298841; **KROPEX AUTO, MAHADEVPURA** – 8291613659; **ADISHAKTI CARS PVT LTD, DASARAHALLI** – 8291336657; **ADISHAKTI CARS PVT LTD, HEBBAL** – 7045203047; **ADISHAKTI CARS PVT LTD, KALYAN NAGAR -** 8069126800; **ADISHAKTI CARS PVT LTD, VEERANNA PALYA RING ROAD –** 7045293895; ; **CAUVERY MOTORS PRIVATE LIMITED, AVALAHALLI** – 7039292557; **CAUVERY MOTORS PRIVATE LIMITED, DEVANAHALLI** – 7039310257; **CAUVERY MOTORS PRIVATE LIMITED, MEKHRI CIRCLE –** 9606975294

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